IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

YASUHIRO TABATA

SERIAL NO: CONTINUATION (OF USSN 08/786,643)

FILED: HEREWITH

FOR: NETWORK CONTROL METHOD

AND SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-17 without prejudice.

Please add new Claims 18-33 as follows:

--18. A network control system comprising:

a computer network;

a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network, each image forming apparatus configured to record an image on a recording paper;

a server connected to said computer network and configured to store information items of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network; a computer connected to said computer network comprising,